THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The names of related products, which are main bye-products in the manufacture of sugar, are molasses, bagasse and press mud.

(c) and (d) The quantity of these bye-products being produced with sugar depends upon the cane crushed by the sugar mills; as such, the production of these bye-products in a season would depend upon the production of sugarcane and quantity of sugarcane crushed in a sugar mill. However, the production of molasses, bagasse and press mud varies in the range from 4.2% to 4.5%, 30% to 33% and 3% to 5%, on can crushed, respectively. Since these bye products are obtained in the process of a manufacture of sugar, it is not possible to indicate their cost of production separately.

Import of wheat

2001. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of import of wheat being made by Government during the current year indicating sources of such imports and process followed therefor;

(b) whether import of wheat is contemplated the next year too;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of wheat procurements made by Government agencies last year and in the current year;

(e) the reasons for wheat imports during 2006-07 and 2007-08 and planning for next year; and

(f) the details of wheat production estimated for 2006-07 and 2007-08 indicating volume of procurement made by Government agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) During the current year (2007-08), Government has decided to import 23 lakh tonnes of wheat for the Central Pool out of which orders have already been placed for import of 16.485 lakh tonnes. Out of this, 5.11 lakh tonnes of wheat has been ordered at weighed average price of US $325.59 per tonne C&F (FO), 7.95 lakh tonnes at weighted average price of US $ 389.45 per tonne C&F (FO) and 3.425 lakh tonnes at weighed average price of US $ 400.19 per tonne C&F (FO). The import of wheat is done against the global tenders and the tenderers are free to quote wheat of any origin, which meets the tendered specifications.

The import of wheat is done following established rules and procedures. State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC) and MMTC are Government of India undertaking whi have been authorized by Government of India to float tenders. They float global tend which are published inleading newspapers and are also posted on their websites. Tl tenders are opened in the presence of an inter-ministerial committee and the tenderers. Then the tenders are evaluated and recommendation is made by STC/MMTC to the Department of Food & Public Distribution/Department of Commerce, who after thorough examination and considering other relevant factors take decision in this regard. The decision of the Government is then conveyed to STC/MMTC for further necessary action.

(b) and (c) Next year's decision will depend upon the procurement and the estimated demand during that year.

(d) During the Rabi Marketing Season 2006-07 and 2007-08, 92.25 and 111.28 lakh tonnes of wheat respectively, was procured for the Central Pool.

(e) The decision to import wheat during 2006-07 and 2007-08 was taken to meet the shortfall in the Central Pool for meeting the requirements of Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS), other welfare schemes and to take care of any emergencies like floods etc.

(f) The details of production and procurement of wheat in 2006-07 and 2007-08 is given below:—

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Crop year	Marketing Year	Production	Procurement
2005-06	2006-07	693.55	92.25
2006-07	2007-08	748.90	111.28

Procurement by FCI

2002. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether procurement of rice and wheat by FCI declined drastically this year;

(b) if so, the details of the procurement of rice and wheat by FCI;

(c) the reasons for the decline in procurement;

(d) whether multinational companies are also procuring rice and wheat in the country;

(e) whether there is any restriction on quantity of procurement by such companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether Government would consider such steps, alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) There was a slight decline in the procurement of rice by the Government Agencies [State Agencies and Food Corporation of India (FCI)] for the Central Pool in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2006-07 (250.75 lakh tonnes as against 276.56 lakh tonnes in KMS 2005-06). However the procurement of wheat has increased from 92.25 lakh tonnes in Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2006-07 to 111.28 lakh tonnes in RMS 2007-08. Procurement of rice in KMS 2006-07 was less than KMS 2005-06 mainly on account of crop diversification and unfavourable weather conditions in some parts of Punjab, Haryana and U.P. resulting in less paddy arrivals in mandis.

(d) to (f) As per the present policy, farmers are free to sell their produce to the Government agencies at MSP, or to the private parties, including Multinational Companies as is advantageous to them. This ensures remunerative prices to the farmers. No restriction on quantity of procurement by Multinational Companies has been imposed by the Government of India. However, a notification titled "Wheat (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order 2007 has been issued under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 on